



# All Around



#### **10th Annual KNID AGRIFEST Show**

Several county Farm Bureaus in northwest Oklahoma sponsored an informational booth at the 10th annual KNID Agrifest Show at Chisholm Trail Expo Center in Enid Jan. 13 and 14. Rep. Dale DeWitt, majority whip, right, stopped to talk agriculture with Garfield County Director Dean Hedges, second from left, and Garfield County President Gary Johnson, left. OFB Field Representatives Burton Harmon and Todd Honer listened as Hedges and DeWitt talked issues. Rep. DeWitt, who represents House district 38, is chairman of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. DeWitt, a Farm Bureau member, is a farmer-rancher and retired agriculture education instructor from Braman. The two-day farm show attracted more than 40,000 people to view more than \$100 million worth of the latest agricultural equipment and products on display. Thousands of the visitors registered at the Farm Bureau booth for prizes given away throughout the show. County Farm Bureaus sponsoring the booth included Garfield, Grant, Kay, Alfalfa, Woods, Kingfisher, Blaine and Major.

## **Seminole County Event**

Below: Seminole County Farm Bureau Director Brian Sims, center, flipped hundreds of burgers and dogs for the grand opening celebration. Director Burnus Fisher, left, helped along with an employee of a local bank that helped sponsor the cookout. The county served hot dogs and hamburgers to hundreds between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Cookies, soft drinks and coffee were provided to everyone stopping by for a visit on Feb. 24.

Bottom: Seminole County Farm Bureau President Syd Morgan took giant scissors to cut the ribbon during dedication ceremonies for the new county Farm Bureau building Feb. 24. The county moved to the new 1801 W. Wrangler location after many years at 2226 N. Milt Phillips Ave. The new, 4,000 sq.ft. facility has offices for eight agents, a spacious lobby and a 1,200 sq.ft. combination board room/meeting room along with storage on the second floor. The parking lot has spaces for more than 60 vehicles. Morgan said the board built the new building with room for the county Farm Bureau to continue growing.









### **Great Job**

Muskogee County Farm Bureau recognized the efforts of fire departments in the county by making a \$10,000 donation Feb. 17. The county and its insurance agents presented checks to individuals representing the 18 different fire departments located in the county. Members of the county

board and agents displayed the county's banner proudly as the firefighters seated themselves for a photograph. Fire departments receiving funds included Buckhorn, Wainwright, Council Hill, Braggs, Summit, Oktaha, Brushy Mountain, Warner, Mountain View, Gooseneck Bend, Keefeton, Boynton, Muskogee, Fort Gibson, Porum, Taft, Summitt and Webbers Falls.

## **Giving Back**

The valiant efforts of 27 volunteer fire departments against the recent onslaught of wildfires in Pittsburg County were recognized and rewarded by Farm Bureau. Pittsburg County Farm Bureau donated \$100 to each of the 27 volunteer departments Feb. 9. Pittsburg County FB Director Bryan Renegar expressed the gratitude of the organization to the firefighters, saying it was unfortunate that it took the destructive wildfires for most to recognize the value of the volunteer fire departments. Renegar and county FB President Gary Crawley presented checks to the volunteer fire department representatives. Departments receiving \$100 checks included Arrowhead Estates, Highway 9, High Hill, Alderson, Gaines Creek, Shady Grove, Pittsburg Area, Haywood Arpelar, Tannehill, Canadian, Crowder, Blue, Ashland, Quinton, Elm Point, Bugtussel, Union Chapel, Sams Point, Stuart, Blanco, Canadian, Savanna, Haileyville, Indianola, Hartshorne, Kiowa and Krebs.



enim is usually associated with jeans and jackets, but some Oklahoman's are enjoying a much tastier denim product. Denim's Restaurant, established in 1989 and located in Marietta, has officially entered the candy business.

**Candy Industry** 

Gene Shepard and his wife, Edel, own the restaurant with their daughter, Sharon Lemons, and her husband, Mike.

Aside from providing delicious meals, 10 years ago the restaurant also started making candy and selling it to their patrons.

Using Edel Shepard's recipes, the most popular candies were the pecan pralines and peanut patties. Demand for the candies grew, and soon customers began asking for shipments.

As the call for pecan pralines and peanut patties increased, the restaurant requested assistance from the Food & Agricultural Products Center, located on the Oklahoma State University campus in Stillwater.

The FAPC conducted an analysis of the candy ingredients and the nutritional value and assisted with marketing the candies.

"The FAPC took us to convenient store conventions, where it received a great response," Gene Shepard said.

Even after wholesale distribution of the candies finally began, the FAPC continues to be involved.

"The FAPC still assists with production issues and marketing," Mike Lemons said.

Jim Brooks, FAPC marketing specialist,



demand for Denim's candies.

"Denim's makes the traditional 'old fashioned' style of peanut patty with more peanuts than their competition, and to the consumers who enjoy that type of candy, it's very apparent when they pick it up and compare it side by side with the other brands," Brooks said.

Denim's see the importance of having Made in Oklahoma products and uses local pecans in their pralines.

"They make a pecan praline that is absolutely delicious and hard to find today in the candy category in this market," Brooks said. "Although the pecan praline is a little more expensive because of the cost of the pecans, it will still be a big seller for Denim's."

The candies continue to be produced in the restaurant in Marietta. Several large and small distributors are sending the candies to statewide locations in Oklahoma. Texas has also started receiving shipments, and Kansas is being considered a possibility in the near future.

The owners are enjoying this new aspect of Denim's restaurant.

"It's a lot of work, but a lot of fun, too," Gene Shepard said.

## **OFB** celebrates **Food Check-Out Day**

ood in America is affordable. In fact, in just five weeks, the average American earns enough disposable income to pay for his or her food supply for the entire year.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau celebrated Feb. 6, 2006, as Food Check-Out Day. The latest statistics compiled by the Agriculture Department's Economic Research

Service indicate American families and individuals currently spend, on average, just 9.5 percent of their disposable personal income for food.

Applying the current statistic to the calendar year, it means the average household will have earned enough disposable income – that portion of income available for spending or saving – to pay for its annual food supply in just five weeks.

Not only is America's food supply the world's safest, but it's also the most

Women's Committee members Desdive Milacek, left, and Kitty Beavers, right, unload grocery bags for Coordinator Marcia Irvin to stack on a waiting cart at the Ronald McDonald House in Oklahoma City.

Bottom: Field Representative Robin Landrum helped state Women's Committee members Marilynn Spence, left, and Phyllis Holcomb, center, and Creek County member Beverly Hiett put bags in a grocery cart at the Ronald McDonald House in Tulsa.





affordable, said Clara Wichert, OFB Women's Committee chair.

"Our nation's increasing standard of living would certainly be reduced without the safe, abundant and affordable domestic food supply produced by America's farmers and ranchers," she said.

To mark the occasion, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Committee donated \$2,000 in food products and Braum's gift certificates to the Ronald McDonald Houses of Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

The Ronald McDonald House provides a "home-away-from-home" for the families of seriously ill children receiving medical treatment in these areas. The donation will be used to help feed families staying at the Houses.

In comparison to Food Check-Out Day, most Americans worked until mid-April to pay their taxes in 2005, according to The Tax Foundation.

Wichert said the high-quality, affordable food we enjoy is a product of our successful food production and distribution system, as well as America's farmers retaining access to effective and affordable crop protection tools.

"As food producers, we are concerned that some Americans cannot afford to buy the food they need, but we are proud of the role U.S. farmers play in making our food supply more affordable for all," Wichert said.

The percent of disposable personal income spent for food has declined over the last 34 years. According to USDA, food is more affordable today due to a widening gap between growth in per-capita incomes and the amount of money spent for food.

This overall decrease is made more notable by the fact that trends indicate Americans are buying more expensive convenience food items for preparation at home, as well as more food away from home.

The Agriculture Department's latest statistic includes food and non-alcoholic beverages consumed at home and away from home. This includes food purchases from grocery stores and other retail outlets, including food purchases with food stamps and vouchers for the Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) program. The statistic also includes away-from-home meals and snacks purchased by families and individuals, as well as food furnished to employees.

## **Habitat equipment available for landowners**

andowners seeking ways to improve wildlife habitat on their property should contact the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. The Department has two tree spades and one roller chopper that are available for landowners to use for wildlife habitat enhancement projects. The equipment is available for a small rental fee used for annual maintenance costs.

"This is the perfect time of year to use



both pieces of equipment," said John Hendrix, private lands biologist for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. "Taking the time to improve wildlife habitat now will pay dividends for years to come."

The tree spade, used for transplanting trees and shrubs, can be used on riparian habitat projects, to establish turkey roost sites and to create shrub thickets for quail and small game. Much faster than handplanting individual tree seedlings, the tree spade is ideal for moving shrubs like sand plum or sumac and trees up to four inches in diameter. Landowners renting this equipment will be provided an operator to run the machine.

Roller choppers are large drums with a series of mounted blades. Pulled behind a tractor the roller choppers, chop and crush brush, small trees, and heavy plant growth. They also disturb the soil and allow sunlight and rain to reach the surface and encourage

Left: The tree spade, used for transplanting trees and shrubs, can be used on riparian habitat projects, establishing turkey roost sites, and to create shrub thickets for quail and small game. Landowners renting this equipment will be provided an operator to run the machine.

Below: Pulled behind a tractor, roller choppers crush and chop brush, small trees, and heavy plant growth. They also disturb the soil and allow sunlight and rain to reach the surface and encourage the growth of more desirable plants. A wide range of wildlife can benefit from this practice including quail, deer and turkeys.



the growth of more desirable plants. A wide range of wildlife can benefit from this practice including quail, deer and turkeys. Landowners wanting to rent the roller chopper must have access to a tractor with at least 80 hp that is required to pull the machine.

The rental process is a cooperative project between the Oklahoma Conservation
Commission and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. One tree spade is located at the Kingfisher County
Conservation District office and the other tree spade and roller chopper is located at the Woodward Conservation District office. A wildlife biologist with the Oklahoma
Department of Wildlife Conservation will complete an on site visit on the property prior to equipment rental.

Landowners who may be interested in using this equipment and would like additional information can contact Wildlife Department Private Lands Biologist John Hendrix, at (405) 880-0994.

## Mark Wolf named 2005 Top All Agent

anadian County Farm Bureau agent Mark Wolf was named Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company's Top All Around Agent for 2005 at the Feb. 15 Kick-Off meeting.

Wolf, who has been an agent for less than three and one-half years, already had an impressive resume with the company before winning the year's top award. It includes Rookie of the Year for 2003, Silver Life Award, Super All American and first runner up for Top All Around Agent for 2004.

"I just work hard," said Wolf, who works out of the Canadian County Farm Bureau's satellite office in Yukon. "I put all my effort into it. I build my business through service. And, I give a lot of the credit to my CSR, Crystal Tapley."

Wolf spent 15 years in the wholesale grocery business before becoming an insurance agent. He developed a philosophy in that business of serving his customers, which he has continued to use as an insurance agent.

"I take care of my customers," he said, "whatever they need. If you take care of your



Canadian County Farm Bureau agent Mark Wolf accepts the trophy designating him as Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company's Top All Around Agent for 2005. General Manager Darryl Sinclair, right, made the presentation during the Feb. 15 company Kick-Off Meeting in Oklahoma City.

customer's needs, then you'll likely keep them as customers."

The Top All Around Agent Award is presented annually to Farm Bureau Insurance's most prolific agent. It recognizes sales accomplishments in property and casualty, auto, life and financial services and all other lines.

"We are extremely proud of Mark," said Farm Bureau Agency Vice President Bill Downs. "Mark is a hard worker and he is caring — two qualities necessary to be a successful agent."

"Being able to help people is the most enjoyable part of my job," said Wolf.

First runner up for All Around Agent was Johnie Brown of Creek County Farm Bureau. Jeff Baumann, a Cotton County Farm Bureau agent, was second runner up followed by Oklahoma County Agent Brad Maroney and Carter County Agent Fred Tayar.

## **OFB purchases 23 prize** winners at Youth Expo

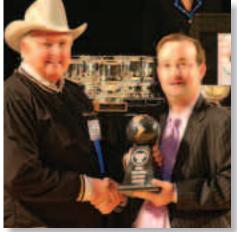
klahoma Farm Bureau & Affiliated Companies was the major buyer at the Sale of Champions March 20. The sale marked the culmination of the 91st annual Oklahoma Youth Expo at the State Fairgrounds in Oklahoma City.

The state's largest farm organization purchased 23 of the prize-winning animals in the sale. Only 195 animals out of more than 13,000 entries in the world's largest junior livestock show were picked for the sale.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Steve Kouplen was recognized prior to the auction with the Volume Buyer Award for last year's premium auction, marking the fifth consecutive year that Farm Bureau has purchased the largest number of animals in the sale.

The exhibitors of the prize-winning animals Farm Bureau paid premiums on at this year's sale were:

- Jason Bates of Alva FFA for the breed champion Spot barrow.
- Austin Vanderwork of Taloga FFA for the reserve breed champion Chester barrow.
- Katie Osborn of Amber-Pocasset FFA for the reserve breed champion Spot barrow.
- Jared Bedwell of Fairview FFA for the third place crossbred steer.
- Luke Eaton of Tuttle FFA for the third place crossbred barrow.
- Jordan Vanderwork of Taloga FFA for the second place crossbred lamb.
- Lane Mills of Byng FFA for the 15th place goat.
- Cody Rodgers of Mulhall-Orlando FFA for the fifth place Chianina steer.
- Megan Sims of Coalgate 4-H for the fifth place Simmental steer.
- Keifer Venable of Tuttle 4-H for the fourth place Spot barrow.



Oklahoma Youth Expo honored Oklahoma Farm Bureau for the fifth consecutive year with the Volume Buyer Award. OFB President Steve Kouplen, left, accepted the trophy from OYE Director Justin Whitefield March 20 during the Sale of Champions at the state fairgrounds arena. The award honors the organization, business or individual that purchases the most animals during the Sale of Champions. OFB has been the top volume buyer in the 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 premium auctions. Oklahoma Youth Expo is the world's largest youth livestock show and celebrated its 91st year in 2006.

- Jordan Green of Muldrow FFA for the sixth place Chianina steer.
- Garrett Starks of Alfalfa County 4-H for the sixth place Maine-Anjou steer.
- Natalie Eaton of Arapaho 4-H for the eighth place natural color lamb.
- Brittley Hartman of Wilson FFA for the ninth place crossbred steer.
- Blake Hargrove of Prague FFA for the ninth place Chianina steer.
- Kalie Cole of El Reno 4-H for the 12th place crossbred barrow.
- Chrystal Patton of Chattanooga 4-H for the ninth place Shorthorn steer.
- Jean Good of Elgin FFA for the 11th place crossbred steer.
- Nicole Frantz of Balko 4-H for the 17th place crossbred barrow.
- Chance McLemore of Chickasha 4-H for the 18th place crossbred barrow.
- Kalya Brown of Merritt 4-H for the 19th place crossbred barrow.
- John Morris of Walters FFA for the 12th place crossbred lamb.
- Stephanie Nye of Sulphur FFA for the 13th place crossbred lamb.

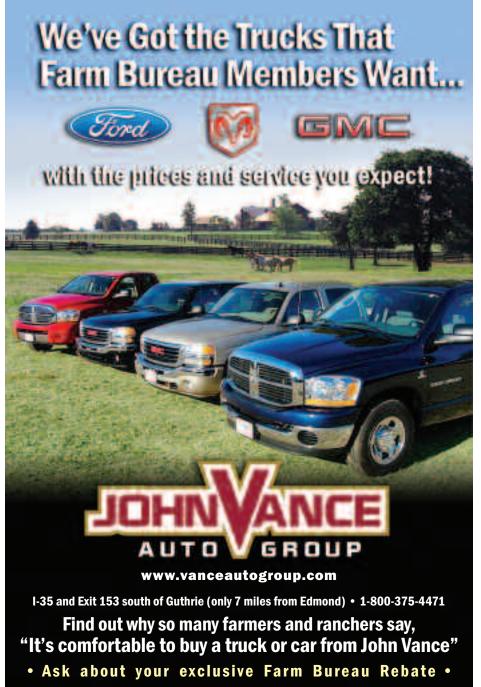
# Farm Bureau Bank invites members to apply for credit card

Farm Bureau Bank has developed the Farm Bureau Bank World MasterCard® program to provide Farm Bureau members with an exciting credit card opportunity. Farm Bureau Bank invites members to apply for the card at their local Farm Bureau office or online through Farm Bureau Bank's Internet application.

"The distinguished and highly desired Farm Bureau Bank World MasterCard® program offers many benefits and special features designed to reward you," said Farm Bureau Bank Vice President of Lending Services Cindee Munro. "Farm Bureau Bank invites all interested Farm Bureau members to apply for this exciting credit card."

The Farm Bureau Bank World MasterCard features a low introductory rate on balance transfers and no annual fee. Cardholders can earn great rewards and experience top-notch benefits. Rewards start immediately through





Farm Bureau Bank's MasterCard Rewards Program, including up to 2,500 reward points for balance transfers in the first 30 days and double points on purchases for three months.

Reward points can be redeemed for

free travel, gifts and cash back. Full details of the Farm Bureau Bank MasterCard Rewards Program can be found online at www.farmbureaubank.com in the credit card Terms and Conditions section.

Cardholders also receive all the benefits that MasterCard provides including Purchase



Assurance, extended warranties on products purchased, MasterRental insurance coverage, Master RoadAssist roadside service, travel assistance services, concierge services, MasterCard Global Service and

24/7 customer service and support.

To apply for the Farm Bureau Bank World MasterCard, or find out more program information, call or visit your local Farm Bureau office. You can also contact the bank directly at 1-800-492-FARM (3276) or apply online at www.farmbureaubank.com.

## **OSU** veterinary hospital releases miracle calf

calf that spent months in the care of veterinarians at OSU's Center for Veterinary Health Sciences after it was born two months premature was returned to its owners recently. The calf's recent release from the Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital concludes a miraculous medical case and a unique learning experience for more than 50 students.

Affectionately nicknamed "Norman," the purebred Hereford calf owned by Poteau cattleman Monte Shockley Jr. was admitted to the teaching hospital on Sept. 1. One day old and not due to be born until October 30, the calf weighed just 26 pounds and was hairless except on its head and lower legs.

"To have much of a chance to survive, a calf should be born within two weeks of its due date, and he was born two months early," said Dr. John Gilliam, Food Animal Medicine resident at the hospital's large animal clinic. "He was bright and aware of his surroundings but was unable to stand.

"Amazingly, he would nurse from a bottle, and his owners had been feeding him colostrum from his mother," Gilliam said.

With round-the-clock care for the first 30 days and additional, subsequent treatments, the teaching hospital doctors, technical staff and students were able to stave off numerous ailments that should have done in the calf. Initially, Norman was quarantined and administered intravenous fluids and antibiotics, nasal oxygen therapy and a blood transfusion from one of the hospital's donor cows. The performance of the calf's underdeveloped lungs was monitored by checking oxygen and carbon dioxide levels in its blood.

"The two biggest threats to his life were the risk of infection and the fact his lungs were so immature," Gilliam said. "The risk of infection was managed by providing the transfusion and antibiotics and keeping him isolated from other animals in the hospital.

"The only treatment we had for his lungs was supplemental oxygen, but we were able to monitor his pulmonary function several times



## **Tulsa Livestock Judging Team Winners**

Adair High School FFA team won the Tulsa Livestock Judging Contest, and represented Oklahoma at the **National Western Livestock** Show in Denver, Colo. Oklahoma Farm Bureau donated jackets to the winning team members as well as a check for \$750 to help pay expenses to the **Denver contest.** 



**Mayes County Farm Bureau** presented the team members with the jackets. Pictured, from left, are Mayes County Director Randy Abbott, and members of the FFA team Brice Abbott, **Travis Timmons, Carly** Chaney and Cody McMahon. Also pictured is FFA Advisor **Devin Delozier and Mayes County Farm Bureau agent** Jim Bob Hendrickson.

daily using an arterial blood gas analysis," he said.

So small it had to be fed from a bottle for baby lambs, the calf stopped nursing after a few days. The veterinarians attributed its inability to nurse to stomach ulcers and the onset of pneumonia and treated both afflictions by switching to intravenous feeding.

When it returned to nursing, the calf developed scours and a persistently low white blood cell count. With time and modifications to his treatments, both conditions improved as well as Norman's underdeveloped coat and skeleton.

"His skin became crusty and dry so we applied a moisturizing spray several times daily until his hair coat grew in," Gilliam said. "We initially made a sling to support him so that he could stand while he nursed, but he had to be confined because the bones in his joints were very immature and might have been crushed if he walked too much."

"We radiographed his joints every other week to see how the bones were maturing, and after about ten weeks, it was safe for him to be active," Gilliam said.

Eventually, Norman was penned with a nurse cow and also began to eat hay and grain. When released to Shockley, 15 weeks after entering the hospital, the healthy and active calf weighed more than 90 pounds.

"Everyday Dr. Gilliam would call and tell us how things were going, and it was up and down for a long time," Shockley said. "We never expected this calf to make it so we're very pleased how he's turned out."

Shockley said he had little reason to be hopeful about the calf's prospects, from discovering Norman to the initial diagnosis by his local veterinarian, Dr. Joe Dubois, an OSU College of Veterinary Medicine alumnus who, incidentally, was a classmate of Gilliam's.

"I was walking the dog in the pasture and came across this lifeless and small animal with no hair, and it was a baby calf," Shockley said. "My local veterinarian came out, and he didn't have any hope for it, but he knew Dr. Gilliam at OSU and recommended we call him."

"Dr. Gilliam sounded doubtful on the phone, but we took a chance and brought the calf and the mother up here," Shockley said. "Dr. Gilliam said it would be hit and miss, but







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